

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 2, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 12, 2004; and May 19, 2004. A Correction to Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statements is submitted herewith and consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application prior to the above amendment, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are independent. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended for clarity. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-11 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,821,597 to Nakajima et al.

In response to this rejection, a *Terminal Disclaimer* is submitted herewith. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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